

## Message Text

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15

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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P 110939Z MAR 75

a0128.tFM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8784

S E C R E T SEOUL 1607

EXDIS

DEPT PASS CINCPAC AND CINCUNC KOREA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS KS VS

SUBJECT: F4D SALE AND ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM

REF: A STATE 051251 B SEOUL 1337

1. AT REQUEST OF PRIME MINISTER , AMBASSADOR SNEIDER REVIEWED 4.1 MILLION DOLLAR F5A REHABILITATION COSTS WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER NAM THIS AFTERNOON. THE AMBASSADOR CAREFULLY OUTLINED THE BACKGROUND OF THIS REQUEST STRESSING THE PRESENT ACUTE NEED FOR ASSISTANCE IN VIETNAM IN THE FACE OF CURTAILED US APPROPRIATIONS. HE URGED THT THE ROKG, GIVEN ITS PREVIOUS INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM, WOULD WISH TO BE HELPFUL IN THIS SITUATION. THE AMBASSADOR STATED THAT IF THE ROKG WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE THE 4.1 MILLION DOLLARS IN CASH, THE ROKG COULD MEET THESE COSTS BY PROVIDING OTHER SUPPLIES OR EQUIPMENT NORMALLY PROVIDED BY THE US UNDER THE MAP PROGRAM IN ORDER TO FREE AN EQUIVALENT SUM UNDER MAP TO MEET OTHER CIRITICAL NEEDS IN VIETNAM.

2. NAM SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN TASKED WITH SEEKING A SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM. MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE (MND) HAD ALREADY DETERMINED THAT FUEL AND AMMUNITION COULD NOT BE PROVIDED FOR THIS PURPOSE OUT OF PRESENT KOREAN STOCKS. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE MND HAD STATED THAT KOREA WAS  
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UNDER NO LEGAL OBLIGATION TO MEET THESE COSTS. THE AMBASSADOR OBSERVED THAT THE US HAD NOT BEEN UNDER LEGAL OBLIGATION TO SELL F4D'S WHICH NOW MUST BE REPLACED.

3. NAM STATED THAT HIS IMMEDIATE PROBLEM WAS TO FIND SOME MEANS FOR RAISING THE 1.9 BILLION WON EQUIVALENT FOR THE 4.1 MILLION DOLLARS TO FUND LOCAL COSTS. HE BELIEVED THAT MILITARY CLOTHING OR POSSIBLY CANNED GOODS PRODUCED IN KOREA MIGHT BE REQUIRED BY THE VIETNAMESE BUT THAT HE STILL FACED THE PROBLEM OF RAISING THE 1.9 BILLION WON REQUIRED FOR THIS PROCUREMENT. HE NOTED THAT THE ENTIRE TRANSACTION WOULD REQUIRE A PRIOR PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL.

4. AMBASSADOR SNEIDER AGREED WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER NAM TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH ON THIS SUBJECT.

5. COMMENT: NAM IS CLEARLY HAVING DIFFICULTY FUNDING 4.1 MILLION GIVEN ALREADY TIGHT BUDGETARY COMMITMENTS HE IS FACING. WE GATHER MND IS NOT TOO HELPFUL IN SEEKING SOLUTION.  
SNEIDER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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4.1 MILLION GIVEN ALREADY TIGHT BUDGETARY COMMITMENTS HE IS FACING. WE GATHER MND IS NOT TOO HELPFUL IN SEEKING SOLUTION.  
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NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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**Concepts:** MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MILITARY AIRCRAFT, MILITARY SALES  
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